

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 03-10-28**

Date Published: October 22, 2003

For Work Week Commencing: October 27, 2003

Commission Meeting: October 28, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Steve Vick at (406) 444-6187. He may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling (Commission Conference Room)

9:30 a.m. Business (Bollinger Room)

Public Comments

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. MCI Telecommunications Corporation N2003.10.145 (Scott)

On October 8, 2003, MCI filed Transmittal Letter No. 03-14. In this filing MCI is making textual changes to Option DDD-Basic Calling Plan AAA.

2. Qwest Communications N2003.10.148 (Scott)

On October 7, 2003, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 03-29, Clarifying Eligibility for Tribal Lifeline Support. This filing is being made to comply with FCC Order No. 03-115, which clarifies consumer eligibility criteria for receiving Tribal Lifeline support. This updated intrastate Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) tariff language broadens the tariff to include a Tribal lifeline eligibility

statement to as follows: "Tribal Lifeline support is provided to applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established within the state guidelines for the Low-Income Telephone Assistance program as shown in 5.2.6.A."

3. WINTER TERMINATION POLICY (Phil)

The PSC's winter termination rules require regulated utilities to obtain PSC approval before shutting off electric or natural gas service to a nonpaying residential customer from November 1 to April 1. Commission policy has been to delegate authority on an annual basis to the PSC compliance staff to approve or disapprove utility requests for winter shutoffs. Staff seeks PSC action on delegation of authority for this winter's shutoff requests.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2003.1.8 – Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative – EAS, expand Missoula region and Helena region. (10/28/03)
2. FCC 96-45 – PSC – Universal Service Fund – Non-rural high-cost support. (10/28/03)
3. FERC ER03-1223 – Montana First Megawatts (Montana First Megawatts, Montana Megawatts I, NorthWestern Energy) – FERC application for approval of power purchase agreement. (10/28/03)
4. Natural Gas Summit – Financial update, request for approval of funds, and other related follow-up. (10/28/03)
5. D2003.10.151 – PSC – Notice of Inquiry on gas utility supply acquisition strategies. (10/28/03)
6. NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy – Placeholder to get direction on any matter related to the bankruptcy. (10/28/03)
7. D2002.12.153 – Qwest – QCC tariff. (10/28/03)

Other Meetings

10/28/03 - 1:30 p.m. CenturyTel Information Meeting (Bollinger Room)
10/30/03 – 8:00 a.m. McKenzie Hearing (Bollinger Room)

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. Qwest Communications N2003.6.80 (Scott)

On September 16, 2003, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 03-AC02, Revision to Percent Other Messages (POM). Qwest originally filed this tariff on June 17, 2003, Tariff Transmittal 03-ACO1, Modification of intrastate jurisdictional reporting requirements for switched access traffic. The proposed access tariff will allow signaling customers who purchase out of the intrastate access tariff to self report, in addition to their Percent Interstate Usage (PIU), a Percent Other Message (POM) that will further categorize intrastate signaling messages that transverse Qwest signaling network. On July 15, 2003, at a regularly scheduled work session the Commission approved the tariffs on an interim basis subject to negotiation that were currently underway with Illuminet, MITS and MTA. This revision reflects those negotiations. There are no revenue or rate impacts to Qwest or the customer with this filing. Qwest is requesting these tariffs become final.

2. Qwest Communications N2003.10.149 (Scott)

On October 15, 2003, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 03-30, Discounted Rates for Volume and/or Term Commitments. The purpose of this filing is to allow Qwest to offer discounts to large customers that may be doing business in a large number of states that desire a regional contract for their entire account. The rates will be specified in a Service Agreement between the Company and the customer and these Service Agreements will be filed with the Commission. With the filing of the Service agreements, Qwest will also provide cost support to assure the pricing in Montana is above cost.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2003.10.151 – PSC Initiated – PSC Inquiry, Development of Advisory Committee, Development of Procurement Rules or Guidelines in the Matter of Montana Natural Gas Utility Supply Procurement Strategies

D2003.10.152 – Wilder Resorts d/b/a Fairmont Hot Springs Resort – Application for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for Water Services